SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" The Municipality has been taking steps to acquire a building from June 1946 for this purpose. Has it been able to do so? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI.—" The Municipal Council informs the Government that it has found some suitable building for the purpose."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" If no suitable building is available for the Muslim High School, will the Government order that High School to be closed till it finds accommodation instead of grouping the two schools together in one building? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I am unable to give the assurance asked by the hon. Member."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether the students who are studying in the Muslim High School are students of the locality and are entitled to be admitted into the schools run by the Municipality and whether any case has been made out for closing the Muslim High School? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Perhaps the hon. Member is right in assuming that the Muslim School admits non-Muslim students also."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Municipal High School admits Muslim boys also and whether instruction is given in Urdu to Muslim students? May I know whether there is not an Urdu section in each class of the Municipal High School? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There were Urdu sections in the Municipal High School. The Director of Public Instruction sanctioned the opening of a separate high school."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether Urdu is the medium of instruction in the Muslim High School? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I have no information."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I ask whether there was not a separate section for each form in the Municipal High School for giving instruction in Urdu by Urdu teachers? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I think instruction was given in Urdu for Muslim boys in every class."

Officers in the Madras Fire Service.

* 168 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of European and Indian Officers in the Madras Fire Service;

(b) whether all officers, Indian or European, hold the same rank and draw the same emoluments;

(c) whether any qualifications are prescribed for the officers and, if so, whether all the present incumbents possess these qualifications;

(d) what the special qualifications of the present Director of Fire Service are;

(e) what steps, if any, are being taken to train Indian officers; and

(f) whether initial recruitment is by the Public Service Commission as in the case of other services?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Eight European officers and ten Indian officers.

" (b) No.

" (c) No qualifications as such have been prescribed. It is proposed to issue statutory service rules for all the posts in the service shortly, wherein specific qualifications will be prescribed.

" (d) (1) Officers training course, Woodford and Wanstead Fire Brigade, London.

(2) Patrol Officer, Woodford and Wanstead Fire Brigade, until formation of N.F.S.

(3) Company Officer, N.F.S., until joining duty in Madras.

(4) Passed Officers' qualifying course, N.F.S., London, 1941.

(5) Experience in London during the Blitz and in India since 1942 as Divisional Officer, Chief Fire Inspector and D.F.S.

" (e) A Provincial Fire Service training school is established in the Madras City. Candidates for appointment to the executive posts in the Madras Fire Service are trained there.

" (f) No. All the previous appointments were made during war time. The last six appointments to the rank of District Officers (Gazetted) were made with the concurrence of the Madras Public Service Commission."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" With reference to answer (b) that Indian and European officers do not have the same rank and the same emoluments, may I know why this distinction is maintained? ".

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Recruitment was made during war time and these European officers were imported from England at the time of a crisis: so we had to pay the price; therefore there is difference in status and emoluments."

3-15 p.m. SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether they are on contract, or on permanent service."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They are on contract, Sir, for four years."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the appointments of District Fire Officers recently made were advertised in papers? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am not aware of the details, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, how many of those appointed are trained in fire service and how many are untrained? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They are all untrained and they are now being trained in the Training School."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I give the information to the Hon. Minister that both trained and untrained candidates applied for these posts. May I know whether the Government satisfied themselves why untrained candidates should be appointed when trained candidates were available?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know whether there were trained candidates in sufficient numbers?"

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister look into this matter, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

Midsummer vacation to Courts.

* 169 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the period during which—

(i) the High Court, Madras;
(ii) the City Civil Court, Madras;
(iii) the Court of Small Causes, Madras;
(iv) the District Courts in the Province;
(v) the Subordinate Judges' Courts in the Province; and
(vi) the District Munsifs' Courts in the Province;

remain closed for mid-summer vacation;

(b) in case there is disparity between the periods during which these courts remain closed, what is the justification for such disparity; and

(c) what steps the Government propose to take to remove the disparity, if any?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (a) (i) About seventy days.

(ii) *to* (v) One month and twenty-six days.

(vi) Five weeks and three days.

" (b) As Judges of the superior courts are generally older men and as the work they have to do is more difficult and exacting, the Government consider that they need a longer vacation to recover from the strain of the work.

" (c) Does not arise in view of the answer to clause (b)."